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March Break madness
Head to Wanakita for a winter week on page 2

Birds of a feather
How certain sounds bring back stories on page 4

Ice pics
A peek into this year's ice racing season on page 11

Gracie Griffith belts it out during the Highlands Summer Festival's Valentine's fundraiser on Feb. 14 at the Haliburton Legion. /ADAM FRISK special to County Life

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March Break comes to Wanakita

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

/Photos submitted

For the first time ever, YMCA's Camp Wanakita is dipping their toes into the world of March Break camps. "We want to be the place to have the time of your life," said outdoor centre director of the facility, Sandra Dabrowski. "We are so excited about the creative programming here."

For nearly 70 years, nestled on Koshlong Lake, Wanakita has offered year-round programming to kids of all ages, including family camps. And while these camps are met with success, Dabrowski and her team have been brainstorming ways to offer accessible programs catered specifically to local kids. "It's really important that we are creating opportunities for our local community," she shared. "We want to make sure it's particularly accessible to everyone who may want it."

The week-long program is designed with both parents and kids in mind; parents from a flexibility and accessibility standpoint, and kids through a programming mindset. "We are focusing on timing for the day that really works for the parents," noted Dabrowski, referencing the flexible drop-off window of 8 to 9 a.m., with pick-up anywhere between 4 to 5 p.m. "It will allow someone to have a full work day between those hours," she said.

Another perk to the full-day programming, is the inclusion of lunch throughout the week. Kids will have options for sandwiches, soups, salads, and desserts each and every day, alleviating yet another factor around the parent's mental load during a busy time of year.

The camps are designed for kids through Grades 1 to 8, and will be organized based on age and interests. With it being an unpredictable time of year weather-wise, Dabrowski says that she and her team are working diligently to develop a wealth of programs that can work with whatever Mother Nature has to offer.

Activities such as cross country skiing, broomball, snowshoeing, eco-lessons, low and high ropes courses, and a toboggan hill are all on the roster, with indoor activities such as crafts, painting, and games also available. "We provide all the equipment that the kids will need," said Dabrowski. "All we ask is that they are prepared with their personal clothing."

Dabrowski noted that the March Break Camp is the last programming scheduled for their winter season, and her team is looking forward to coming up with some "creative programming" to cater to the kids interests. "It's all about kids being able to spend time with other kids their age, and a chance to make some new friends," she said.

While much of the Wanakita programming in the past has been offered to people both from the community as well as visitors, Dabrowski noted that many of the overnight camps or family camps tend to draw crowds from away. With the March Break Camps, she hopes to attract more of a local crowd. "It's so important that we are creating opportunities for our local youth," she said. "Particularly accessible fun, for anyone interested in being there."

Wanakita March Break camp is now open for registration, and more information can be found at www.ymcahbb.ca/camps/ymca-wanakita.

"We're excited for what this year will bring," said Dabrowski, "I hope we can make this something we do every year for our community."

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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All about community

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I BELONG TO a few community forums on Facebook and find it a great way to keep up on the local events, news, lost dogs, and most importantly in recent days, driving conditions. People will ask how the roads are in certain areas, lots of regular commuters to the GTA will post photos to alert those of us back home of conditions. It is helpful in guiding decisions about travel to have these brave travellers sharing their experiences.

I think one of the strengths in any community is this idea that we can share our journeys with others and help them make choices and informed plans using that experience. At Community Living, we have been offering this sharing service since the agencies were formed in the 60s and 70s. Families banded together in the three communities to begin planning for a different kind of journey for their children. In Haliburton, a group of parents and community members began meeting in the late 60s to discuss what an alternative to school could look like.

At that time children with a developmental disability did not have access to school. This hard-working group is starting to make different plans and dream dreams for their children. That was the start of Community Living in Haliburton. Those parents formed the first board, those parents fundraised and gathered and made decisions that laid the groundwork for the agency we are today.

We continue to forge ahead and try to connect families and people to share experiences and learning to ease the hard work of those just starting out. I found myself in a group of parents recently and one young mom talked about how wonderful it is that Sick Kids in Toronto tries to have a group of appointments and tests on one day to limit travel and expenses for families. An older mom in the circle piped up and explained that it was a group of mothers that she was part of in the 80s that worked with Sick Kids to make that change for families outside the Toronto area. It was a powerful moment to be in the presence of a trail blazer and the current trail takers.

At Community Living, we try to offer information and connections to inform people and families of the opportunities, the road conditions, what's available and make connections. It is our aim that people and families feel supported, feel heard, connected and prepared as they continue to forge paths and seek out better and meaningful options for their loved ones to share their unique gifts all over the place. Our founding families shared their journey just like my neighbours in the commute photos, from there others can decide where and how to travel to make their own way.

Love is in the air

The Highland Summer Festival hosted a Loving 25 Years event at the Legion on Valentine's Day. Guests at the ticketed event were treated to an evening of musical talents the festival has presented over the last few years. /Adam Frisk special to *County Life*

The 10 O'clock bird

/Submitted

DEB REED

County Life Contributor

1997. Feels long ago to some, like yesterday to many. Sometime that year, my oldest friend bought herself a trendy new 'singing bird' clock. It had a round 'oak' frame and featured authentic recordings of birdsong common to our Ontario experience. Around its face, and depending on the time (and if there was enough light in the kitchen), her clock sensor would trigger the natural music of twelve notable fliers. Among the hourly calls, we got to hear a Great Horned Owl, Black-capped Chickadee, Baltimore Oriole, Canada Goose, Kingfisher, Woodpecker, Northern Mockingbird, Cardinal and Nuthatch.

I desperately wanted such a clock, and announced this rather plaintively. So for Christmas 1998, my indulgent friend gave me an identical one, thoughtfully wrapped, and a genuine surprise, like all her gifts since we were high schoolers.

I hung that gift-that-keeps-on singing in my final classroom, where it heralded the hours for nine more years until I retired. It fell many times from our wall, especially when local middle schoolers repeatedly practised basketball against the outside brick. But sticky tape is a teacher's best friend, and my Grade 5s forgave every patchy repair. The clock birds still reliably sang out the time, and their music eventually became familiar to every new September intake of young inner-city scholars. They soon got automatic at recognizing species, and would subtly compete to be first to whisper an ID without needing to look up.

The owl ('hoo-h'hoo-hoo-hoo!') meant lunchtime, and was particularly popular. Goose meant detention was over. And for some reason, there was muffled laughter whenever someone whispered out 'Tufted titmouse' at ten o'clock's turn.

I still have that original school clock, all patched, cracked, and…working. Nowadays it sings to itself, alone in our Haliburton bunkie, happy enough these days to be nearer to real live woodland birds.

But…! We've acquired a brand new shiny and REVISED version for our new and shiny kitchen. There are other 'singing clocks' out there these days, all requiring three AA batteries, one for time function, another for light sensor, third for sound. I've also witnessed 'splashing' fish clocks, lighthouses and alternate bird collections. Another friend has two completely different bird clocks operating simultaneously in her sunny Toronto apartment. They're not quite synchronized, so whenever I call her to rehearse my latest 'editorial', I'll hear two contrasting species on the hour, several seconds apart.

Unlike the 1997 version, our present-day kitchen clock, a recent housewarming gift from a local friend, doesn't feature a Tufted titmouse at ten o'clock. Instead, we hear a White-throated sparrow. I like that sparrow best. For me, it's always represented by forests, and forests reassure. Planet, nation, wilderness, kayaking, spring. That sparrow calls out twice a day, a.m. and p.m., its reassuring 'O sweet Canada Canada Canada' balancing my winter spirit, and reminding me of green.

Twice a day I get to remember where I live and who I am. Our trees and sparrows are innumerable, sacred, wild and free. O sweet Canada Canada.

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Just around the corner

KATE BUTLER

County Life Contributor

As I write this, we're in the middle of a second major winter storm in five days, and I know that many people around the county are asking themselves, "Where am I going to put all this snow I have to shovel?" Even the most dedicated winter enthusiasts seem to be facing a few challenges. Yesterday, I was chatting about the weather with someone who said that having so much snow accumulate so quickly on the local ski trails actually made it more difficult to groom them.

For anyone who's longing for warmer weather, keep in mind that despite the snow, spring isn't that far away. Before we know it, the clocks will jump forward and suddenly sunset will come after 7 p.m. On sunny days, you can already tell that spring is approaching from the different warmth in the rays and the puddles of melted snow that pop up at street corners.

Many decades ago in Haliburton County, late winter was a time to calculate and also anticipate. For those working in the lumbercamps, the movement of lumber was largely dependent on the snow cover. A team of horses could move a sled of logs with relative ease, but once a melt began, the backwoods lumbercamps could quickly turn into a quagmire of mud and swamp land. Some men working in the camps were likely counting down the days until they'd be back at home, while others were planning to extend the season and take part in the spring log drive to help move the lumber farther along its way as the waterways thawed and the ice broke up. I imagine some found the work on the drive to be quite the adrenaline rush, keeping themselves carefully balanced during that ballet on the water, but I'm sure there were also many who did the work to help pad their winter pay packets and whose thoughts had already turned to the next season.

Late winter was also the time to start making plans for what crops would be planted that year. Though each year was different, the confidence of early settlers in their abilities and knowledge must have grown over the years, especially as they came to know the climate and their own parcel of land better. Those planning days must have brought with them an anticipation of the warmer weather and fresh produce to come.

Today, even those of us who are far removed from agriculture might still feel an anticipation when we spot a display of seeds in a shop on a late winter's day. We might contemplate a planter full of herbs, wonder if a corner of the garden has enough sun for tomatoes or think about filling up a bare patch of lawn with wildflowers. Even if gardening isn't your thing, you might begin to think about those first sprouts of new green grass, the sound of maple sap dripping into buckets or that first day heading outside without winter boots on. Personally, I always think of childhood recesses when jackets were accidentally left hanging on a fence outside because the weather was suddenly so lovely that you forgot you'd even had a coat with you. We may not know exactly when all this will arrive (no matter what the groundhogs might have said), but spring is just around the corner, so let's take time to celebrate the season that's here now while also looking forward to what's next!

Haliburton Highlands OPP introduce body worn cameras

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are rolling out new technology to their front-line officers.

After a successful roll out of In Car Cameras (ICC) which incorporated an Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) system, the Haliburton Highlands OPP along with other detachments within Central Region, are starting to roll out their next piece of technology in the form of Body Worn Cameras (BWC).

The implementation of BWCs provides one more tool for the OPP to enable the collection of better evidence, demonstrate greater accountability and transparency, and enhance public and officer safety in the communities we serve.

The BWCs are worn on the front of the officer's vest and are clearly visible to anyone an officer may be interacting with. The BWC will display a visible ring of flashing green lights when in standby mode which will turn to flashing red lights once the BWC begins recording.

Officers are currently being trained on the use of the new technology and are being outfitted with their BWC upon the completion of their training. The full rollout for the Haliburton Highlands OPP is anticipated by early spring however officers who have received their training will begin use of the BWCs immediately.

To serve our province by protecting its citizens, upholding the law and preserving public safety. Haliburton Highlands OPP values your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please visit Crime Stoppers at: www.khcrimestoppers.com, or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Submitted

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Dance

THERE ARE some things in life that we just can't live without.

Food, water, warmth, shelter.

Some would argue that companionship and love are on that list, while others sit perfectly content in their solitude.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But one thing that I have always been captivated by, is the draw to dance.

You wouldn't think to add it to the list of innate human needs that we require for survival, but I would argue that perhaps it is something we carry in our very cores.

My two step-daughters have long been involved with the local dance scene; dabbling in everything from ballet to highland dancing. And it's something that's been intrinsically woven into their souls; the reminder that 'we can't dance while brushing our teeth' sitting on the top of our list of phrases in this house.

They dance while they pack their lunches, while they float down the stairs on the way to school, while they traipse into the house after a long day.

It's never just walking. It's always dance.

It wasn't something I had put much thought into, while I watched them soar and float through their years. It was always just who they were, and I loved that.

But recently, my son - who is coming up on his first birthday - has started to dance as well.

It started small. Little head bobs when *Old MacDonald* came on our playlist.

Now, when he hears a song he likes, he wriggles out of our hold, sticks his arms out like a goofy scarecrow for balance, and crunches his knees up and down with the beat; a smile sweeping across his cherubic face.

He cannot speak, can barely walk, doesn't know how to articulate his specific wants and needs.

But he can dance. It was born in his very core.

The other day, I went to the Highlands Summer Festival's fundraiser. Here, a room full of people braved the wintery weather to sing, to laugh, to dance. Perhaps none of it was needed; not mandatory for survival, but I can guarantee that every person in that room left happier than when they arrived. A kick of serotonin after a long and blustery winter. Dance can do that.

The arts are often put on the backburner of this consumeristic world. The first on the chopping block when we talk about budget cuts, academic priorities, potential job opportunities.

Slowly but surely, the creativity in our kids is wrung out - the drips and drops of artistic explorations squeezed out of them, leaving only a cookie cutter towel of a basic being.

Why don't we dance, anymore?

As I watch my own kids twirl and swirl through life, I so desperately want to keep it that way. To appreciate dance in every form, at every stage. And I think it could be argued that every art form is some sort of dance; music, poetry, theatre, colour.

It's all a series of steps and moves to exude an expression that sits deep in your soul. It's who we really are, in our purest and most vulnerable form.

So yes, while we have needs for food and water, for warmth and shelter, let us not forget the bits and pieces of sparkle that were born in our heart. While it may not always seem like a priority, there's always a part of us that has it.

And that's something we just can't live without.

Top 10 reasons why monsters never have good teeth

ONE OF the things I've noticed over the years is that I've hardly ever noticed a monster in a movie who has good teeth. This, and the death and destruction they leave in their wake, is probably why they remain wildly unpopular.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

So, I asked myself, why do monsters always have bad teeth? Here are the top 10 reasons I came up with:

1. Prohibitively expensive dental plan.
2. No one is brave enough to tell them they need braces.
3. Not big on flossing.
4. Most have a hard time fitting into dental chairs.
5. Hard to brush when you have razor-sharp claws.
6. When you bite through cars, you chip a few teeth.
7. No one ever took the time to teach them how to brush properly.
8. They're not big on smiling so they don't really care.
9. Mad scientists that create them flunked out of dental school.
10. They can't just stop after eating just one diabetic.

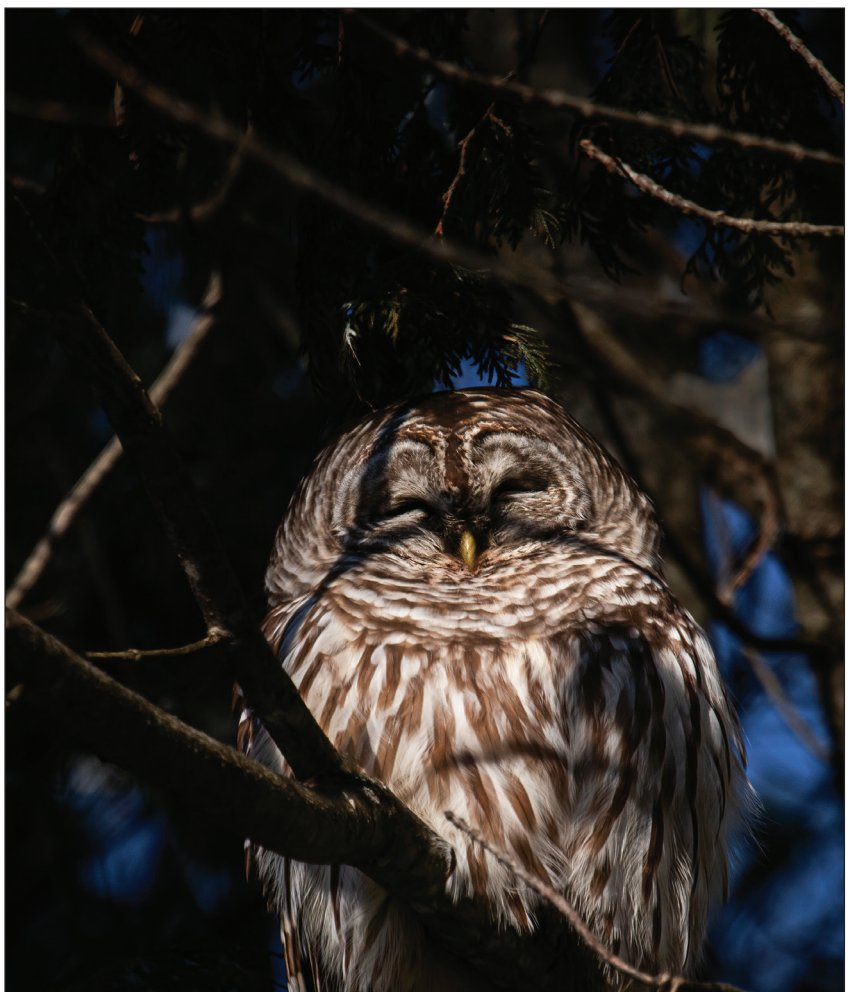
Saplings

Bees buzzing between the trees, swarming the trail,
the sound of skidoos whizzing past, as I stand alongside the pine saplings,
that are buried in Snow, only their tips poking through,
waiting for the line of skidoos to pass, for silence to veil the trail again,
seven of them, leaving their track marks behind, flattening Snow and the footsteps that came before,
my eyes peering after them 'till they become a black blur, and the bee buzzing fades,
my feet free to clomp back and walk along the middle of the trail, following their tracks,
but I linger amongst the pine saplings for a little while longer, my fingers ruffling the tops of their heads,
brushing Snow from their branches, how small some of them are, barely reaching my knees,
wondering how they breathe, smothered in all that Snow, quietly waiting for spring,
surrounded by their con-freres that tower over them, that have known many winters and many springs,
knowing, naturally, that they must endure this season, to flourish in the next, standing here, flanking the trail,
surviving and thriving for years, amongst the stumps and elders and newcomers, like the saplings,
bundled in Snow,
I turn to go, a feeling of tenderness seizing me, warming me in the cold,
as I stare at the sapling siblings, so little, only their tips poke through the Snow,
something to look forward to, to watch them grow, as the seasons pass, knowing they'll always be here,
year after year,
something familiar and rooted, in a world that grows more fractured every day,
my eyes blinking up at the smudge of Sun, inhaling its pale light, savouring the silence veiling the trail,
quiet so loud, I hear a clump of Snow dislodge itself from a pine branch, watch it fall towards the ground,
landing on one of the saplings' heads, already buried in a mound of Snow,
remembering, for a moment, the snowball fights we used to have at recess or after school,
the boys targeting the girls they secretly liked, or so we were told,
as the teacher scolded them and the girls brushed Snow off their faces and heads,
I brush the fallen Snow off the sapling, the sound of buzzing bees, growing louder again,
so I remain here on the side of the trail, for a little while longer, watching and waiting for the line of skidoos to pass,
whizzing so fast, I wonder whether they notice the saplings poking through Snow,
or the rotted old tree stump with its cap of Snow, squatting amongst the pines,
the line of skidoos, fading from view, if I knew childhood passes so fast, I would have savoured it longer to make it last,
even the snowballs we used to throw, at recess or after school, before we grew into what we were Becoming.

Sylvie Kalenda

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.



Barred Owl snoozing by Tammy Nash

Snowy Faces by Randy Moratz

Goose shadows by Lou Weber

Chickadee by Jill Moulton

Common Goldeneye ducks by Randy Moratz

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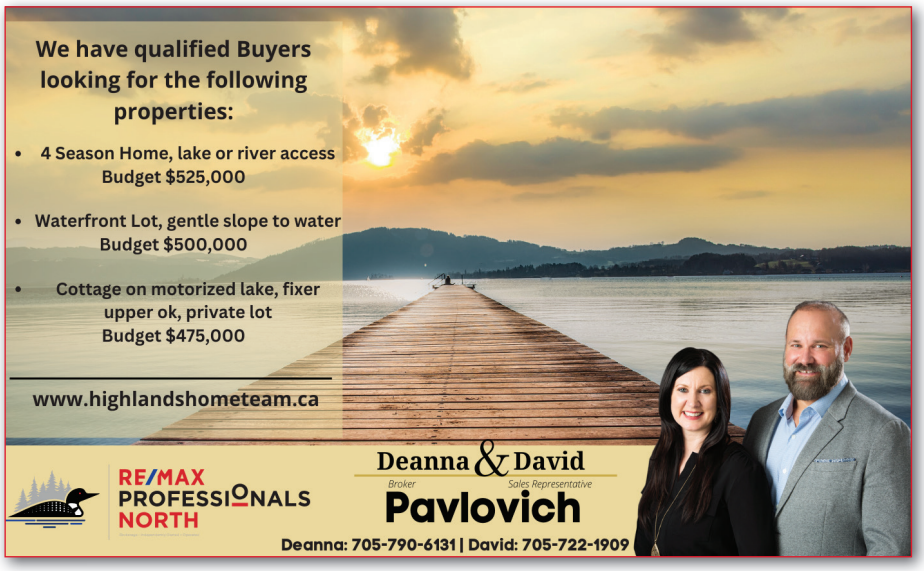
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Whatever Murphy wants, Murphy gets, don'tcha know

MAYBELLE'S
Fireside Stories

DEAR READER,
While the world-at-large is in a chaotic stew, and I don't mean the kind with good ingredients in it, thanks to you know who and his kiss-the-ring cronies to the south, ol' Maybelle has a story to tell that may be hard to believe, but trust me, it really happened … to me.

Why, if my darling niece's husband, Jamie, didn't pass away almost four weeks ago leaving Lilyjane completely heartbroken and ol' Maybelle compelled to jump on an airplane to be with her in California, don'tcha know. Okay, I didn't jump, Beanpole drove me in his 4 x 4 through a snowy white-out and slippery highways to an airport hotel where I was able to settle my rattled nerves and fly out the next morning.

Now, the good part is, I flew on Porter Airlines which is a gem of an airline. Why, if they aren't the most green airplanes flying. Here's a little tittle straight from their inflight "re:porter" journal: "The Embraer E195-E2 jet is the most fuel-efficient single-aisle jet in the skies with its low fuel consumption per seat." And this, "Currently the quietest single-aisle aircraft in production, its low noise levels are backed by ICAO." And my goodness, the food is super fresh and peachy-keen-tasty, and the containers they serve it in are biodegradable! As my young friend, Vilma Yuccch says: "Porter is rad, Maybelle, rad."

That's where the good bits begin and end. No complaints about the flights there and back, but everything else on my way home was clouded by Murphy's Law on steroids, don'tcha know.

At 1:00 a.m. over the intercom in my airport hotel room an announcement blared: "Evacuate your room immediately. Do not use the elevators. Use the emergency stairs only. This is a fire warning." And it kept repeating and repeating. Why if ol' Maybelle didn't jump out of bed like a … no that's not true. I was so tired that I crawled out of bed, unhappily threw a winter jacket over my jammies, put on my winter boots, grabbed my purse and climbed down eight flights of stairs where other guests who were also half asleep looked up at the enormous hotel whose lights in various rooms where blinking on and off like airplanes on a tarmac, don'tcha know.

Shivering, we were all relieved when five minutes or so later we were told we could go back to our rooms. But remember, Murphy? Okay, here we go. The air conditioning in the corridor just outside my room was blasting freezing cold air making it impossible for my room to get warm, and it just kept getting worse.

So, after calls back and forth to the front desk, I repacked my stuff and moved to a room on the second floor. By 2:00 a.m. I was in bed and sound asleep.

At 10:00 a.m. ol' Beanpole, who had driven all the way from Lake WhaddayathinkImean to pick me up, took me for a hearty breakfast where we laughed off the false alarm and dug into eggs, bacon, pancakes, and nice hot coffee.

Now, we're driving on the 400 North and Beanpole says: "My truck isn't driving right, Maybelle." And before we know it, a light on his dashboard comes on saying something or other, and then the truck starts shaking, and it's all we can do to drive to the side of the highway where it's safe from zooming cars and trucks.

The truck is now dead. Dead dead dead dead dead. And getting colder by the minute. Fortunately, Beanpole had a CAA card, called them right away, and in only about twenty minutes our CAA driver, Tim, showed up with a long flatbed truck and a nice warm cabin where we were able to thaw out.

And wouldn't you know, he drove us all the way back from around King City to Lake WhaddayathinkImean. Home, safe and sound. Almost.

We're all of fifteen minutes from my cottage and wouldn't you know, Murphy was up to his last bit of mischief. A deer bolts right into the road and our driver had no way to avoid hitting it. Oh, what a blow! We love deer. And poor Tim felt so badly. He had never driven north of Toronto and deer-consciousness was not on his radar. And, even if it had been, we all know this could happen to us locals, too.

When I finally got home, if ol' Maybelle didn't pinch myself again and again. In fact, I'm still pinching myself, so happy to be home and relieved that, despite Murphy and the amount of energy it takes to travel these days, I am so happy I was there with my niece, being a shoulder and friend in her time of need.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories and her novel: "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon" are now available at www.amazon.com.

Slip and slide

The ice racers of Minden were able to have a full season this year, with winter hitting early and cold temperatures keeping the track icy and smooth. The last races of the season are this coming weekend, March 1 and 2, before the track will slowly start to melt. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Minden Ice Races
When: Mar. 1, 2
Where: Minden Fairgrounds
Spectator admission is free. Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday.
Experience adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track!

Growing Food from Seed
When: March 4, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside St. Minden
Do you love gardening? Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside St. Minden. Guest speaker Diana Westland will be discussing 'Growing Food from Seed,' followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Youth Unlimited Gym Nights
When: Mar. 7 - Sports and Dodgeball 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Apr. 4 - Sports and 9 Square 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
For Grades 6-12. For more info contact haliburton@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

Recurring events

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library New Book Nook Hours
When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Visit our Book Nook! Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome.

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street
Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw. Five spins for $10. First four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. Last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

'Hey there!' by Tammy Nash

Red squirrel by Jill Moulton

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs) Ladies Darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a weekly supper special. Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Please follow our Facebook page - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441 Kinmount. Do you need a space to host an event: book our hall today, call 705-488-3462 and leave a message or call Teresa at 705-928-7105.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out:
705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Feb. 28 Seniors 55+ Lunch, $17, Noon
Feb. 28 -Wings and Jam, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Mondays - March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Darts, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - March 5, 12, 19, 26, Darts, $4/player, 2 p.m.
Thursdays -March 6, 13, 20, 27, Cornhole, $5/player, 7 p.m.
March 13, 27 - HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Fridays - March 7, 21, Fish & Chips, 5 to 8 p.m. $15 for 1 piece, $20 for 2 pieces
March 14, 28 - Wings and Jam Session, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
March 14, 28 - Seniors 55+ Lunch, $17, 12 pm
Saturdays - March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Meat Draw, 3 p.m.
March 8 - Cornhole Tournament 1 p.m.
Sunday - March 9, LA Breakfast, 9 to 11 a.m., $10
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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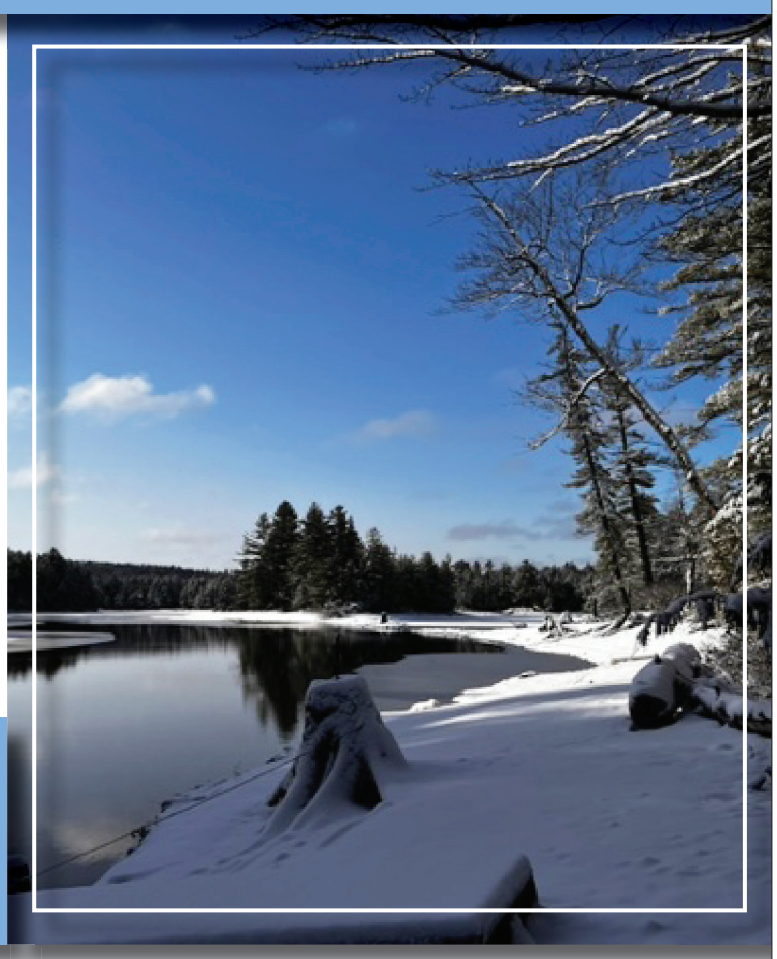

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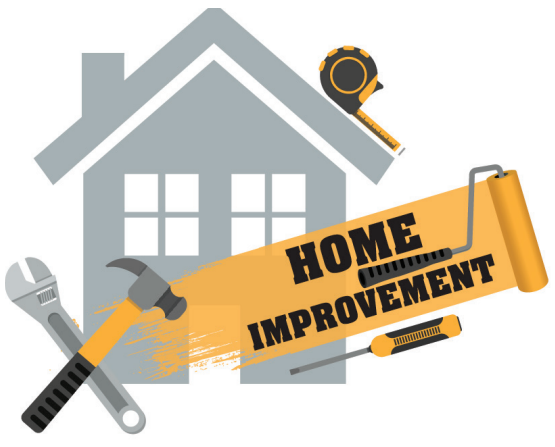

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Focus narrowed on county options

by Andrew Milne

Councillors and administrators of governments across the county met last week to discuss plans for local government restructuring.

The February 14 meeting was held to narrow down a list of options for county restructuring.

Delegates to the meeting reduced a list of possibilities to primarily two options — the amalgamation of a number of the lower tier governments (townships and amalgamated townships), and the wholesale elimination of the lower-tier governments, leaving only a county government.

Delegates also expressed a wish that the possibilities be explored for amalgamation and sharing of services with neighbouring jurisdictions. And they emphasized concern that any initiatives to restructure be assessed critically against the option of leaving the structure of government as is and seeking cost-saving measures elsewhere, such as through the sharing of services.

Local government restructuring is largely driven by recent cuts to transfer payments from the province of Ontario. The cuts are expected to make some jurisdictions — especially the smaller ones — unviable, and to result in financial stress throughout local government.

The province announced November 29 that core transfer payments to the municipalities would be reduced by 47 percent. The provincial government says the cuts, as an average figure, represent around two percent of current municipal spending.

Locally, the cuts vary from just under two percent of expenditures upwards to six percent.

A second set of cuts, of similar magnitude, are anticipated in the next fiscal year.

Not all present at the meeting were entirely comfortable with the process.

Rick Forget, a Monmouth councillor, expressed concern that the process was moving too quickly, and that the councillors present had not been adequately prepared to make such far-reaching decisions. Nor, he said, did the structured, scripted meeting format give them much time to think about it.

Said Forget, "We're given 20 minutes to discuss this, we're to make the decision, and then okay, we move along. I feel that this whole process is just going too fast."

Ann Barker of Stanhope expressed similar concerns. "It was my impression," she said, "that we were coming here to be brought up to speed on what you were doing — not to go over all of this."

Ross Rabjohn, Sherborne et al reeve and former county warden, responded that the process is still really only in its

(more on page 5)

The spirit of love was in the air Wednesday at Archie Stouffer Elementary School as the staff and students marked Valentine's Day. Teaching assistant Sue Payne, inset, was a hit as the Queen of Hearts. Students Cheryl Ripley, left and Brock Thomas,model their heart-felt costumes for the Valentine's Day Ball.

Student's survey examines health services restructuring

Residents of Haliburton County and area are being asked to participate in a survey about the restructuring of health services.

The investigation into the changes is being undertaken by second year medical student Shane Burch. The former Haliburton County resident is studying medicine at University of Toronto. One of his courses is entitled Health and Illness in the Community.

"In addition to our classroom study, we are required to get out into the community to examine health and wellness," Burch explained. A portion of the course is designed to provide the medical students with an understanding of the determinants of health in the community.

Burch has an interest in rural and emergency medicine and so the restructuring currently underway in Haliburton County provided a model for him to study. The survey is designed to provide him with an understanding of the community's perceptions of the services available through the local hospitals and how they might change if the services are reduced or closed.

"Participants in the survey should be aware that there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers to the questions," Burch stated. "My purpose is to determine people's perceptions of the current situation and how they feel about the future."

The Times and the *Haliburton County Echo* have agreed to participate in the survey by printing the questionnaire. In return, Burch will report back to our readers on his findings. A copy of the survey can be found on pages 17 and 18 of this week's newspaper. Please complete the survey, tear the page out of the paper and bring it to *The Times* office, 134 Main Street , Minden or mail it to Box 97, Minden, Ontario K0M 1S0. Surveys will also be accepted at the *Haliburton County Echo* office on York Street in Haliburton.

Way seems clear for board to take over Hyland Crest

by Andrew Milne

Concerns at county council level over the takeover, by the health board, of Hyland Crest long term care facility, are probably unfounded, according to the board's lawyers.

The Haliburton Highlands Health Board is expected to take over operation of the facility sometime within the next year or two.

Hyland Crest is currently administered by the county.

It recently came to light that it was one of the conditions in the formation of the county government that the county maintain a 'home for the aged' such as Hyland Crest.

County councillors expressed the concern that, should the home no longer be administered by the county, the county would, according to the legislation, stand to lose its charter.

The legal opinion the board got, however, was that although the legislation itself would be difficult and time consuming to change, there should be legal arrangements that could be made that would get around the problem.

Said executive director Foster Loucks, "It seems to me that if we let the lawyers at it, they should be able to work something out."

Former county warden Ross

(more on page 2)

Community card for Tim Heming

Everyone is invited to send best wishes to Tim Heming the former resident of Minden who has been named an Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year. The young man will be undergoing serious surgery next week and so neighbour Sheri Hawkins has suggested the community send our best wishes to him. See page 7 for details.

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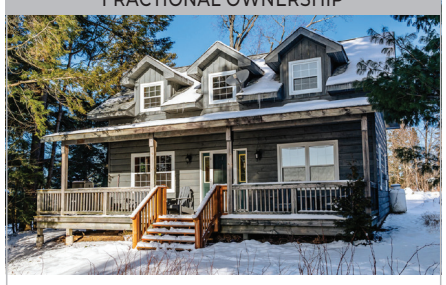
FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP



3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X11884689

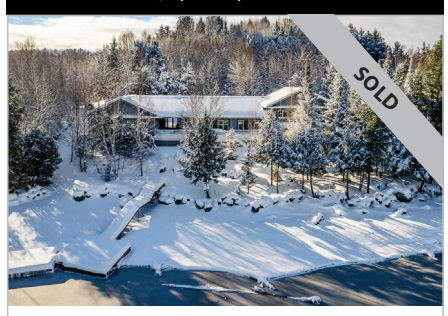
KUSHOG LAKE (RD BETWEEN)
$549,900

2 X BATH | MLS# X11959957

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000

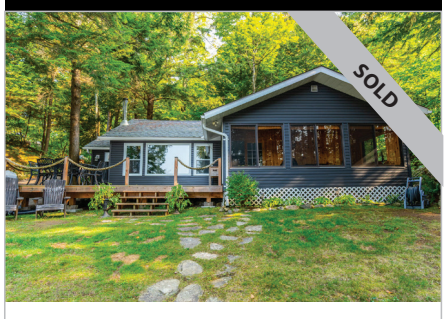
3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10435688

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,675,000



5 X BED | 4X BATH | MLS# X10436789

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10434776

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

4 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# X10439458

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X10438580

KENNISIS LAKE
$750,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10894143

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

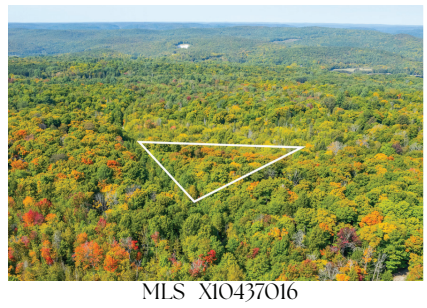
Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
Virtually Available
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X11955874
$178,000
25 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

FEATURED LISTING



MLS X10437016

LT 49 Basshaunt Lake Road
$105,000
Eagle Lake
Vendor Take Back mortgage available
2.19 Acres

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
(705) 457.3461
contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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